Claims

[c1] A method of communicating between an automation device and a web browser comprising of the steps of:

sending a request message from said web browser to a process that encapsulates said request message in a MODBUS type protocol;

transmitting said request message to said automation device;

responding to said request message by the automation device with a reply message using the MODBUS type protocol;

transmitting said reply message to the process;

reformatting said reply message such that the message is understandable by said web browser;

sending the reformatted reply message to the web browser.

[c2] The method of claim 1 whereby the MODBUS type protocol is the MODBUS/TCP protocol.

[c3] The method of claim 1 whereby the MODBUS type protocol is the serial MODBUS protocol.

[c4] The method of claim 1 whereby the request message

uses HTTP and HTML.

[c5] The method of claim 1 whereby the request message uses HTTP and XML.

[c6] The method of claim 1 whereby the request message uses HTTP and XHTML.

[c7] The method of claim 1 whereby the request message uses HTTP and SGML.

[c8] A method of communicating between an automation device and a personal computer comprising of the steps of:

sending an HTTP request message from said web browser to a process that encapsulates said HTTP request message in a MODBUS type protocol;

transmitting said request message to said automation device;

responding to said request message by the automation device with a reply message using the MODBUS type protocol;

transmitting said reply message to the process;

reformatting said reply message such that the message is encoded in HTTP;

sending the reformatted reply message to the personal computer.

[c9]   The method of claim 8 wherein the MODBUS type proto-
        col is the MODBUS/TCP protocol.

[c10]   The method of claim 8 wherein the MODBUS type proto-
        col is the serial MODBUS protocol.

[c11]   The method of claim 8 wherein the HTTP request mes-
        sage uses HTML.

[c12]   The method of claim 8 wherein the HTTP request mes-
        sage uses XML.

[c13]   The method of claim 8 wherein the HTTP request mes-
        sage uses XHTML.

[c14]   The method of claim 8 wherein the HTTP request mes-
        sage uses SGML.